

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2003

LB 273

brutal things to animals will do them to people. Not everybody, but many of the people who are found to have done terrible things to people started with animals. Almost without exception, those young people who were what we called the shooters at these schools had started out doing torturous things to animals. Jeffrey Dahmer, the one murdered all those young men, ate parts of their bodies, stored other parts in his refrigerator and freezer, started out by torturing animals. Not too long ago, in Omaha, just a matter of days, a female pit bull was found outside a man's house. He heard the dog moaning. When he went outside, he saw her bloody and wounded. So he went in the house, because he was going to give the dog some food. When he came back out, she had managed to drag herself, from the back, up onto his porch, and she was somewhat combative and wouldn't let him on his porch, so he nevertheless came around and set some food near her and called the Humane Society. When their people came, they were stunned. Never had they seen such savagery, brutality, and barbarism inflicted on a living creature by a human being. There were numerous stab wounds. They feel that a machete-like implement may have been used, because one of the wounds on the head had cut all the way to the skull and maybe have exposed part of the brain. There was a gash running across the front of the face, from one eye to the other. One of the stab wounds in the face was so violently done that it broke several of the teeth. Then there were gouges and injuries on other parts of the animal. Naturally, they could not save her life, so they had to euthanize her. When those who had dealt with the animal were talking about it on the news, they had a bit of difficulty discussing it, and expressed their serious concern that anybody who would do this is dangerous, not just to other animals, but to human beings. And when I looked at what had happened to that dog, I could not put myself in a frame of mind where I could do something like that to a living animal. And he didn't kill it. I say "he." Maybe it was a woman. I don't know. But the people who worked with the Humane Society immediately started raising money for a reward. They started with \$500. Somebody told me it may be up to \$4,000 now. And I hope they catch the person who did it. But the penalty is based on a Class I misdemeanor. The maximum is six months in jail. Since this bill will take effect after that incident, it will not have any impact on the individual who committed that